

AF FORM 112--PART I
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1965~~SECRET~~
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COUNTRY ARGENTINA		REPORT NO. EX-86-85	(LEAVE BLANK) AF 654362
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT (Secret) CONTACTS BY ASSISTANT RUSSIAN ATTACHES			
AREA REPORTED ON Argentina		FROM (Agency) Air Attache, Buenos Aires, Argentina	
DATE OF REPORT 22 February 1965	DATE OF INFORMATION February 1965	EVALUATION F-8	
PREPARED BY (Name) LtCol Lowell E. May, Asst Air Attache		SOURCE Personal contact	
REFERENCES (Control number, direction, previous report, etc., as applicable) BAIR (6A); IR-194-54; IR-197-54; IR-220-54; IR-237-54			
SUMMARY. (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112--Part II.) This IR contains account of recent contacts by personnel of this office with Assistant Russian Attaches, Major CONSTANTIN MEIKOV and Commander ALEXANDER MOROSOV.			
APPROVED: <i>George R. Herrman</i> GEORGE R. HERRMAN Colonel USAF Air Attache			
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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Air Attache Buenos Aires, Argentina	REPORT NO. IR-36-55	PAGE 2 OF 6 PAGES
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1. On 4 February 1955 Major CONSTANTIN MEDEKOV, Assistant Russian Military, Naval and Air Attache, called this office and requested to talk to Preparing Officer. When Preparing Officer answered the phone, Major MEDEKOV said that he would like to come to my office if possible and talk to me. Plans were made for Major MEDEKOV to visit this office approximately three hours later.

2. The following is a summary of the conversation between Preparing Officer and Major MEDEKOV. Some of the comments were prompted by questions but for easier reading, information is presented in narrative form. It should be pointed out that during practically all of this meeting, Major MEDEKOV insisted on speaking in Spanish. The reason for this is not known as Major (then Lieutenant) MEDEKOV spent 1947 and 1948 in the United States as Assistant Attache and speaks English very well. Only in the last part of the conversation did Major MEDEKOV speak English.

a. Major MEDEKOV arrived at exactly the appointed time, and approached one of the airmen in the hall near the Attache office. He placed his hand on the shoulder of the airman (who was dressed in civilian clothes) and asked where he could locate the Preparing Officer. According to information from office personnel, Major MEDEKOV seemed very nervous and kept pacing around in the hall making all types of nervous motions while waiting to be received. When received by the undersigned, Major MEDEKOV was still in a nervous state. He was taken to office of the Preparing Officer and given a seat at which time usual subjects such as weather and families were discussed. After this, I asked him what I could do for him. He said, Well, the first thing that he would like to know was what system we use to teach Spanish. He said that his reason for this information was that he and his wife both spoke some English and that they wanted to continue practicing it, and at the same time practice Spanish. A copy of the War Department Education Manual EM 510 was shown Major MEDEKOV and the instruction system was discussed briefly. He expressed an interest in this manual and said he would like to purchase a copy of it if possible. On this point no commitment was made.

b. Major MEDEKOV then said he would like to know if there were bookstores in Buenos Aires where he could purchase English-Spanish work books similar to the manual discussed above. He also wanted to know what bookstores distributed most of the English printed books and other English publications. These stores are well-known in Buenos Aires and their location can be determined by the local telephone book and the two local English newspapers. At this time there was a discussion regarding the publication "Novedades de la Union Sovietica" (see IR-194-54) which the Russians are publishing here in Argentina. Major MEDEKOV said that this publication had to be secured through local subscription but that if we had any interest in this publication that he could arrange for our office to receive copies each week. Major MEDEKOV said that this publication had very little significance and was printed and distributed more or less the same way as the U. S. Information Service publication "Informaciones."

c. Major MEDEKOV then asked how the American Air Attaches secured information on the Argentine Air Force. He then stated that his office had very little, if any, information on the Argentine Air Force as his predecessors had not secured any information on this subject. He also stated that the Argentine Air Force in his opinion had very little military significance in Argentina both from a military or a political standpoint, and that the main power in Argentina was in the Army, and that most of their emphasis was being directed in this way. He stated that they were getting very little cooperation from the information services of the Army, Navy and Air Force in receiving information requested. He said that they had standing requirements for intelligence information from Russia, and that they received special requests for certain types of specific information regularly.

d. Major MEDEKOV then wanted to know what type of athletic activities this office participated in. When told that we played golf and tennis, he said that he did

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AF FORM 112-PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1955~~SECRET~~
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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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not know how to play either, because there were no golf or tennis courts in Russia, but that he would like to play some volley ball again if possible. He stated that when he was in Washington he used to go to Rock Creek Park and play volley ball which he enjoyed very much. He seemed very pleased when we discussed arranging a volley ball game.

e. Major MEDKOV said that living conditions in Argentina were very good, and that they made a little more money here than they do in Russia, but that they were paid in dollars which has to be converted at the official rate of 14 pesos to 1 dollar with the Central Bank whereas the free exchange rate in every country other than Argentina is approximately 30 pesos to 1 dollar. He stated that in their office the four attaches had two official cars, U.S.-made (Buick and Oldsmobile 88). According to Major MEDKOV, it is impossible for them to import cars because of the rate of exchange. Although a nice profit can be expected on the sale of an automobile by diplomatic personnel, Major MEDKOV stated that it was far too expensive for them to bring a Russian built car to Argentina due to high costs in Russia and also to high transportation costs.

f. Major MEDKOV stated that, in his opinion, relations between Russia and the U. S. were very critical but that the average working class of people in his country did not want war, but he also stated that the high political leaders in his country reflected the views of the people. He said that he was familiar with all propaganda on this subject because he knew the attitude of the free press toward Russia, and that he also can still say frankly that most of these comments are not true but reflect the views of journalists who know very little if anything about Russia. He believes that with trade and exchange of ideas with other parts of the world, Russia and the United States can work out all of their problems. Concerning this matter, he stated that within the next month or so, there would be a fair or an exposition of Russian mechanical and agricultural materials in Argentina which would show what Russia was producing in these different fields. He stated that the object of this exposition was to sell Russian materials to Latin-American countries. He stated that Russia would like to carry on more trade with the United States and England, but as far as he understood this would not be permitted by the United States and England for some time to come.

g. Major MEDKOV said that upon completion of his tour in the United States, he returned to a field artillery unit with the Army in Russia, and was stationed with two different units before being sent on this assignment. He stated that during this time he had received no special training for this assignment, as they do not have a training school for Attaches. He said that his knowledge of the Spanish language was picked up in his spare time by the use of records, but, judging from his fluency in Spanish, he has received quite a bit of instruction. According to the Argentine Air Force personnel, he speaks Spanish very well.

Prokofy P. Nikolai Konstantinovich

h. Major MEDKOV said that Captain MELENIKOV (Spanish spelling JLEENIKOVF), of the Soviet Air Force, had arrived the latter part of January and had been assigned as an aide to Colonel ROMANENKO, Military, Naval and Air Attache, and that he spoke fluent Spanish but that he would not have diplomatic status in Argentina.

i. Regarding the Russian Air Force and the Argentine Air Force, Major MEDKOV stated that the Russian Air Force had not received any queries regarding the purchase of aircraft from the Argentines. This, in his opinion, would be a stupid move on Argentina's part, to purchase aircraft from Russia, inasmuch as Argentina should purchase aircraft from the United States in order to standardize aircraft in Latin America.

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j. During the time that Major MEDKOV was in this office, he appeared to be rather nervous and smoked approximately half a package of cigarettes.

3. On 16 February while the Preparing Officer was leaving the Lincoln Library of the U. S. Information and Education Service about 1800 hours, Lt. Commander ALEXANDER MOROSOV, Russian Assistant Naval Attache, was met entering this library. Commander MOROSOV seemed very surprised and more or less embarrassed to meet the Preparing Officer in this location. After extending the usual courtesies, he was invited to have a drink in a local bar. In querying on what he was doing, Commander MOROSOV stated that he was out shopping for some items, but no statement was made regarding his interest in the Lincoln Library. He said that he had visited this library once before and had found it very interesting.

4. In conversation, Commander MOROSOV stated that he did not like this type of work as Attache, and that he felt his time was being wasted in this assignment. He said that he had been specifically trained as a hydrographer and that his services were not being utilized in this assignment. Commander MOROSOV speaks a very slight bit of English. He stated that after he completed the Naval Academy, he was given a post-graduate course at supposedly the same school, whereas he studied English for a short while and inasmuch as all publications pertaining to hydrography are published in English, he said that he could read English satisfactorily, but that he could not speak it very well.

5. Reference the current political changes in Russia, Commander MOROSOV said that he did not think that the changes in the high political echelons would in any way be reflected in their operation here in Argentina or come down to their level of operation. He stated that MALENKOV was now Ministro de Electricidad (Minister of Electrical Power) in the Soviet government.

6. In discussing training received before coming to a post such as this, Commander MOROSOV stated that he did not receive any special training before being assigned to this post, but after discussing the matter further, he did state that all personnel coming on assignments such as these were given a Communist indoctrination course.

7. During the course of this conversation, Commander MOROSOV asked what clubs the Americans had in Buenos Aires, and when told that the Americans were members of practically all of the Argentine clubs, he stated No, what he meant was what specific clubs were American only. When advised that the American Club was actually the only club that was fully financed and operated by the Americans. He asked how was it possible for non-members to go to this club, stated that he had very much interest in seeing this club and would like to make a visit to it sometime. It should be pointed out that on the 1st of January a new modern club was opened in Buenos Aires at the corner of Viamonte and Nueve de Julio, which is a ten-story building. The four top floors are occupied by the American Club. It appears that this club has caused a great deal of curiosity on the part of not only the Argentines but also on the part of personnel such as Commander MOROSOV.

8. Upon departing MOROSOV said that he would be glad to see the undersigned at any time that I could see him again, and if at any time I would like to see him, not to hesitate to call him at his office.

9. On 18 February, Major MEDKOV again called this office and requested permission to visit with the Preparing Officer. A meeting was arranged similar to the first one. Upon arrival at this office, the usual courtesies were extended and then Major MEDKOV stated that he was very much interested in learning to play golf and would greatly appreciate it if Preparing Officer could take him out on the golf course and show him how the game was played. Major MEDKOV stated that it was impossible for him to buy

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a set of golf clubs due to the high expense, but that he thought he could possibly borrow a set.

10. After this discussion, Major MEDKOV asked if Preparing Officer had seen the full account of the interview between William Randolph Hearst, Jr. and Party Secretary NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV which took place recently. To a negative reply, Major MEDKOV stated that if I had an interest in this, he could furnish me with a copy of the interview in Spanish. He stated that this speech was not published in any of the Spanish or English newspapers in Argentina, but that a full account of the interview could be furnished, which in his opinion was a very good interview. He also expressed much interest that the Defense Minister of Russia, GEORGI ZHUKOV visit the United States, for he felt in this respect better relations could be expected.

11. General conversation followed the same line as at first. When Major MEDKOV was asked what information he could furnish regarding conditions in Russia, activities of the Russian Air Force, etc., he stated that he could furnish any information that we desired that was not considered classified. In fact, he said that it was their program to furnish information to all the Attaches regarding living conditions in Russia and the technical development that Russia had undergone in the past 30 years.

12. During the course of the conversation, it was determined that Commander MOROSOV had advised Major MEDKOV that he had seen Preparing Officer on 16 February at the Lincoln Library. Major MEDKOV expressed a great deal of interest in the activities of the Lincoln Library in Argentina. Other than the few points discussed above, nothing specific was determined from this meeting. On departing this office, Major MEDKOV stated that he thought these friendly meetings were the best way to understand one another and asked if it were satisfactory for him to call this office and if we could possibly have lunch together soon. He stated that when he first arrived at my office he was hesitant about speaking English, but after speaking English for a short while he felt more confident in his knowledge of the English language.

COMMENTS of Preparing Officer:

13a. In discussing Major MEDKOV with other American personnel, it is their opinion that his associations in Washington could have taken him away from Russian attitudes and customs. It appears that if any Russian out of the four Attaches assigned to Argentina would be a good prospect for a defector, Major MEDKOV would be, due to the fact that he has his wife and only child here in Argentina. It cannot be determined what other ties are held on Major MEDKOV in Russia. Since his arrival in Argentina, he has been extremely friendly with the Americans and has made every effort to cultivate better relations with them. Whether or not this relation is completely sanctioned by the Russian Embassy is not known, but according to information available, this is a world wide plan of the Russians.

b. This contact will be observed in an effort to determine his intentions and what information can be secured from him, in accordance with State Department TWX CA-4098 (Secret) dated 23 December 1954.

14. As can be seen from the meeting and discussion with Commander MOROSOV, the Russians have definitely boosted their activities here in Argentina, making an all-out effort to secure information and to make friends with the Americans. It cannot be determined what freedom of movement these Assistant Russian Attaches have, but it is believed that they are more or less on their own and could probably be used to a great extent if properly cultivated.

Lowell E. May
 LOWELL E. MAY
 Lt. Colonel USAF
 Assistant Air Attache

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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COMMENTS of Approving Officer:

13. During the past six months the Russian military attaches accredited to Argentina have significantly increased the scope of their social and intelligence collection activities. There are three Russian attaches currently residing in Argentina who are accredited to the Army, Navy and Air Force: Colonel PROKOPI P. ROMANENKO, Captain NIKOLAI PEROV, and Major CONSTANTIN MELNIKOV. Additionally, there is one Naval Officer, Captain ALEXANDER MOSKOV, who specifically is accredited to the Argentine Navy. The Senior member of this group and the directing head of their Attache activities is Colonel ROMANENKO. Previous to this increased level of activity during the past six months, the Russians were backward and unfriendly; however, at the present time they give the impression of being a friendly and courteous group and one that is specifically interested in cultivating good social relations with the military representatives of all nations accredited to Argentina. They seem to have paid particular attention during this time to cultivating American military attaches.

14. In view of their effort to cultivate the Latins and the Americans, contacts will be made with the Russians in accordance with State Department Secret cable GA-4098 dated 23 December 1954 and as approved by the Chief of Mission.

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G. R. H.

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